Malpractice in Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

2804. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of malpractice have come to light in the affairs of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti;

(b) whether a former employee of CAG appointed recently is handling financial and administrative matters, he was not engaged for;

(c) whether ad hoc appointments were made in violation of a Government ban;

(d) whether out of turn promotions were given to some select staff; and

(e) whether Rs. 25 lakh was spent on Gandhi Smriti for development of campus by diverting funds from other heads without approval from Governing Body headed by the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A former employee of the CAG has been appointed Consultant-Internal Audit for auditing the accounts of the Samiti internally and to exercise control over financial matters for proper utilization of Government funds. He is rendering assistance to Director, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in financial and administrative matters.

(c) Consequent upon the promotion of Dr. Savita Singh, Programme Officer as Director *w.e.f.* 12.12.2001, the post of Programme Officer was advertised. 48 candidates applied for the post, of which 8 were shortlisted and only 4 appeared for interview.

The Selection Committee did not find anyone suitable for appointment to the post and recommended that Director. GSDS may appoint a person purely on adhoc basis. Accordingly, Shri Vedabhayas Kundu was appointed as Programme Officer on ad hoc basis for a period for six months.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) An expenditure of more than Rs. 25 lakhs has been incurred on development/renovation/restoration of Gandhi Smiti Complex and other activities with the approval of the Chairman of the Executive Committee.